



**ARIZONA READY EDUCATION COUNCIL
GRADUATION/DROPOUT PREVENTION TASKFORCE**

August 6, 2013 @ 1:30 p.m.

Executive Tower

1700 W. Washington

3rd Floor Conference Room

Phoenix, AZ 85007

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Cathleen Barton, Patti Beltram, Dan Brown, Dr. Maria Harper-Marinick (telephonic), Sam Leyvas, Amanda McAdams, Diane McCarthy, Darcy Renfro, Dr. Amy Schlessman (telephonic), Dr. Kent Scribner, Chair Merl Waschler, and Vince Yanez,

Members Not Present: Rusty Bowers, Mark Dobbins, Pearl Esau, Marv Lamer, Tom Tyree, Carolyn Warner, and Dr. Jim Zaharis

Staff Present: Rebecca Gau

Call to Order, Welcome, & Introductions

Merl Waschler called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. provided welcoming remarks and introduced the purpose of this meeting, which was to discuss one of the taskforce's recommendations in-depth.

Diane McCarthy moved for the approval of the May 21, 2013 Task Force meeting minutes as presented. Vince Yanez seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Build on Early Childhood

Mr. Waschler introduced Rebecca Gau with the Governor's Office of Education Innovation (GOEI). Ms. Gau reviewed the sixth whitepaper to build on and support key strategies from current collaborations for early childhood and early grade literacy to inform policy. Task Force Members discussed, in depth, the possible available actions for this topic. Task Force Members then identified three key funding priorities;

1. Extended school year, which could include extended study time
2. Professional development programs for early childhood
3. Accessible, affordable quality early childhood/pre-kindergarten programs

Ms. Gau thanked the Members for their input and advised that there will not be a seventh whitepaper regarding absenteeism as this topic was covered in the fourth white paper regarding the Early Warning System. Task Force Members agreed with this decision.

Discussion: Support Early Warning System

Ms. Gau reviewed the updated version of the fourth white paper covering the support for an Early Warning System. Task Force Members discussed the new draft and requested some additional changes to the document. Ms. Gau advised that she would add these additional changes to the final Graduation Rate recommendation.

Discussion: Align CTE & Career Pathway Systems

Ms. Gau reviewed the updated version of the fifth white paper covering the alignment of CTE and the Career Pathway System. Ms. Gau then introduced Richard Condit, with Sundt. Mr. Condit discussed his experiences with career pathways and reviewed the Arizona Pathway's paper. Task Force Members discussed the Pathway's paper and discussed adding additional information to the whitepaper.

Council Comments

Chair Waschler announced the next meeting to be held August 20, 2013.

Call to the Public

There were no requests from the public to address the Task Force.

Adjourn

With no further business before the Taskforce, Diane McCarthy motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Patti Beltram and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:29pm.